DATA ARE SOUGHT ON NIXON'S HOMES

Rep. Brooks Wants Federal Record on Expenditures

8/1/73

By LINDA CHARLTON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 31—The chairman of the House Government Operations Subcommittee said today that he would seek to subpoena Government records relating to work done at President Nixon's homes in Florida and California to make them "safe, secure and palatial."

Representative Jack Brooks, a Texas Democrat, said at a news conference that he was forced to take this "drastic action" by the White House. He said that the White House had instructed the General Services Administration not to provide the subcommittee with promised data about expenditures at the Presidential homes.

"The information for which I have asked consists of routine documents supporting Federal Government expenditures," Mr. Brooks said. "The taxpayers and the Congress have a right to examine those documents." He charged the Nixon Administration with "once again" choosing "to deny the right of the American people and the Congress to facts they have a right to know."

Mr. Brooks said that he met with Arthur Sampson, the G.S.A. Administrator, on Saturday, at which time he "agreed to supply the subcommittee by this Friday all G.S.A. documents relating directly or indirectly to work performed" at the two Presidential private residences and at Grand Cay. The last is a small island in the Bahamas owned by Mr. Nixon's close friend, Robert H. Abplanalp, and which Mr. Nixon has visited frequently.

Statement Expected

Mr. Sampson, according to Representative Brooks, also agreed to give subcommittee staff investigators access to G.S.A. files and data yesterday morning. But, Mr. Brooks said, the staff members were denied access to the files, and at a later meeting yesterday, "Mr. Sampson informed me that he could not comply with his agreement . . .".

The agency head told Mr. Brooks that "pursuant to instructions from the White House," he would provide no data until the White House "released a comprehensive statement on these matters 'in a few days,'" the representative said.

Mr. Brooks said that he had been told the White House reversal came out of a Sunday meeting of Mr. Sampson, Leonard Garment, the counsel to the President, and Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary. "The President was reported to be unaware of the meeting or the decision," he said.

He said, in reply to questions, that he also intended to ask for records of Government expenditures at Vice President Agnew's new home in Bethesda, Md., on which about $125,000 has reportedly been spent, and at the suburban Maryland house owned by Charles G. Rebozo, another Presidential friend, and lent by him to the President's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. David C. Eisenhower.

Some Documents Seen

Thus far, Mr. Brooks said, the Government has made available documents indicating a total of $1.9-million spent on the private Nixon residences in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente, Calif. Estimates of the true total spent there and elsewhere, however, have ranged as high as $10-million.

A. G.S.A. spokesman issued a statement later in the day that said:

"We are working on a comprehensive statement concerning expenses incurred by the G.S.A. related to the protection of the President and his family. It will be ready within a matter of days. The decision to withhold further comment and to place a moratorium on inspection of the files was a joint decision between G.S.A., the White House and Secret Service.

"We asked the Congressman for extra time while we prepare our statement rather than just submit raw data to a subcommittee. We have nothing to hide and intend to cooperate fully with Congressman Brooks."

Mr. Brooks said that he had asked the G.S.A. for whatever records it had on similar expenditures made at the private residences of Presidents Johnson, Kennedy and Eisenhower and asked the General Accounting Office to make a study of whatever similar expenditures might have been made in the Truman and Roosevelt Administrations.

He said that it had never before been necessary for his subcommittee to issue subpoenas to obtain information from the G.S.A., which is the Government's housekeeping agency.